

CLAIMS

1. A post mounting arrangement (4) for ground installation of a post (2) comprising
5 a tubular body portion (6) which is adapted to be installed into the ground and has an open
end adapted to receive a post (2) to be supported, the open end of the tubular body portion
comprising an enlarged flange portion (14) defining a head portion of the tubular main
body portion (6), the head flange portion (14) includes a resilient retaining collar (12,12')
adapted to receive and engage the post, and a strengthening band (8);
10 wherein the head portion (14) comprises a first recess (22) defined therein within
which the said collar (12,12') is engaged and mounted, a second recess (20) defined in the
head portion adapted to receive the said strengthening band (8), and the whole being
adapted to be fitted to and engage with the post to enclose the tubular body portion (6) and
secure the post (2) and strengthening band (8), the collar (12,12') and band (8) being
15 removable.
2. An arrangement as defined in claim 1, wherein a cap (10) is provided adapted to
be fitted to and engage with said head portion (14) to enclose the recesses (20,22) and
secure the collar (12) and strengthening band (8) in place.
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3. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 2 in which the cap (10) when
engaged and fitted to the head portion (14) is adapted to urge the collar (12) inwards, in
use, into engagement with the post (2).
- 25 4. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in either of claims 2 or 3 in which said
cap (10) includes a portion which is adapted, when said cap is fitted to said head portion
(14), cooperates with said first recess (22) to urge said collar (12), in use into engagement
with said post (2).
- 30 5. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 4 in which said cap includes a
flange projection (28) which cooperates with said first recess (22) and head portion (14)
to when the cap is fitted and in use urge the collar (12) into engagement with said post (2).

6. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in any of claims 2 to 5 in which the collar (12) comprises a post abutment surface (30) which is adapted to provide, in use, an enhanced interference fit and grip on the said post (2) against movement in a first direction as compared to movement in a second direction.
- 5 7. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 6 in which said post abutment surface (30) of said collar comprises at least one serration or ridge (31).
8. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 7 in which said at least one
10 serrations (31) is directionally orientated such that a first surface of said serration abuts said post and a different angle to a second surface of said serration.
9. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in any of claims 2 to 8 in which said cap (10) is adapted to be snap fitted to said head portion (14).
- 15 10. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 9 in which said cap (10) includes a flange lip (24) which is cooperatively engaged with a cooperating flange lip (24) on said head portion (14).
- 20 11. An arrangement as claimed in claim 1, wherein the collar (12) comprises a shock absorber element (12') having a groove (42) capable of receiving an expansion ring (44) to lock the element (12') into place.
12. An arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein the shock absorber element (12'),
25 in use, covers and seals the whole of the top of the head portion (14).
13. An arrangement as claimed in either of claims 11 or 12, wherein the element (12') interlocks with the top of the head portion (14).
- 30 14. An arrangement as discussed in any of claims 11 to 13, wherein the strengthening band (8) is retained between the second recess (20) and an extended sleeve portion (50) of the element (12').

15. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in any of claims 1 to 14 in which the post (2) and tubular main body portion (6) are of a generally circular cross section.
- 5 16. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in any of claims 1 to 14 in which the post (2) and tubular main body portion (6) are of a generally square or rectangular cross section.
17. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim in which said first recess (22) defined in said head portion (14) is adapted such that said collar (12,12') can flex away from, in use, engagement with said post (2).
- 10 18. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim in which the collar is fabricated from a resilient material.
- 15 19. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 18 in which said collar is fabricated from a rubber material.
- 20 20. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim in which said tubular body portion (6) is fabricated from an injection moulded plastic material.
21. A post mounting arrangement as claimed in claim 20 in which said plastic material comprises polypropylene.
22. Method of erecting a post using a post mounting arrangement as claimed in any preceding claim comprising the steps of:
- 25 a) installing said tubular main body (6) in the ground,
b) installing said strengthening band (8) in said second recess (20),
c) installing said collar (12,12') in said first recess (22),
d) inserting a base end of said post (2) through said collar (12,12') and into said tubular body portion (6),
30 e) fitting said cap (10) to said head portion (14) to secure said collar (12) within said head portion, or inserting said expansion ring (44) into the shock absorbing element (12').

23. Method of erecting a post as claimed in claim 22 in which said post (2) is inserted through said collar (12,12') prior to installing said collar and inserting said post into said main tubular body (6).